

10-22-2007

# The Hilltop 10-22-2007

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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 38

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Monday, October 22, 2007

**MONDAY**  
**Notebook**

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**BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**

MICROSOFT AND BEST BUY COULD OWE MILLIONS TO COMPUTER BUYERS WHO WERE UNKNOWNLY CHARGED FOR MSN SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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**SPORTS**

THE NORTH CAROLINA A&T AGGIES WERE SENT HOME PACKING WITH ANOTHER LOSS AT THE HANDS OF THE BISON SATURDAY.

PAGE 3

## Yardfest Performers Leave Spectators Disappointed

BY EBONI FARMER  
Deputy Campus Editor

Yardfest 2007 left some spectators rain-soaked and disappointed. Despite appearances by local artist J. Holiday, as well as Lil' Mama, Hurricane Chris, The Dream, Ray Lavender and headliner Talib Kweli, students still wanted more out of the annual free event.

"Yeah it was free, but this is the Mecca," said freshman biology major Taylor Prince. "I expected to see Lil' Wayne or somebody."

In a survey conducted by *The Hilltop*, 70 students were asked how they rated Yardfest on a scale from one to five with five being the highest. Eleven students, (15 percent) rated Yardfest a one, 18 (25 percent) gave it a two, 20 (28 percent) gave it a three, 15 (21 percent) gave it a four, and six (8 percent) gave it 5.

"It could have been the rain that affected me, but there isn't much I can say about Yardfest this year," said sophomore theater major Crystal Robinson, who rated Yardfest a two. "Talib is cool, but I thought that Souljah Boy was coming. I really wanted to do the dance out here, but I guess it's free so I shouldn't be complaining."

Renee Garnett, a junior from North Carolina A&T, was disappointed in the choice of music.

"In the beginning, an artist was rapping 'Can I hit that?' I would think that because Howard, like most colleges, is overwhelmingly populated by women, that the choice of music would be more respectful towards women," Garnett said. "At one point a rapper brought a girl on stage and attempted to make her dance. It really didn't make sense to me."

Others felt differently and were pleased with the artist turnout.

"I give it a four," said sophomore legal communications major Janice Starks. "It can't be easy getting artists to come to a free event. Everyone is about their money. Other schools who get the T.I.'s and Lil' Wayne's to come to their Homecoming, they pay for their tickets."

Starks said she enjoyed seeing The Dream, Talib Kweli and One Chance.

"It's fun not only because of the artist, but being around friends and having everyone in the same place at once," Starks said.

Freshman biology major Nicholas Sneed was pleased with his first Yardfest. "Yardfest is live," he said. "There are a lot [of] celebrities and a lot of beautiful women."

Although students had mixed feelings about Yardfest,

> See **YARDFEST**, Page 4



Justin Knight - Staff Photographer

Students displayed mixed reactions during headliner Talib Kweli's set. As some enjoyed the music, others left the Yard.

## Record Industry Tackles Infringement

BY LINSEY ISAACS  
Staff Writer

With the increase in illegal downloading severely affecting the music industry, record companies are taking extreme actions to punish all individuals who infringe on their corporate rights.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), a major distributor of more than 90 percent of legitimate sound recordings, plays a major role in the protection of artists' and corporate rights.

The RIAA recently issued more than 411 pre-litigation settlement statements to approximately 19 different universities over the country, a stark addition to 22 universities previously targeted in September.

In the ninth wave of an initiative to end illegal downloading, the RIAA has specifically made it its mission to stop college students from illegally getting free music. According to recent surveys, half of the nation's college students download music illegally from unlicensed peer-to-peer (P2P) networks, making up the large percentage of music downloaded illegally overall.

In these pre-litigation

settlement statements, the students are encouraged to settle their corporate infringement claims at a discounted rate before formal lawsuits are filed.

"I think what they're doing is [stupid]," said freshman computer engineering major Whitney Neal. "Instead of going after people who download music, they should go directly to those providing it."

Though college students are the main focus of these settlement cases, which often entail payments of approximately \$2,000 to settle, they are not the only RIAA targets.

A repayment of \$220,000 in damages was recently ordered to 30-year-old Jammie Thomas, a single mother of two from Minnesota who makes an annual income of \$36,000. Thomas was not accused of stealing music, but charged with making 24 songs available online for others to download through a file sharing network called Kazaa.

Thomas' attempt to appeal the case was overturned. Her lawyer argued that the payments were disproportionate with the original prices of the songs, which amounted to approximately \$24 and caused less than \$151.20 in damages to the record companies.

The case is currently unresolved, but the RIAA has taken similar action in the past. The trend of filing these major lawsuits stemmed from a case in 2003, which was settled with repayments of \$2,000 by then 12-year-old Brianna LaHara, an honor student from New York.

Regardless of the RIAA's negative attention from the past and its current targets, it continues to file civil suits against file sharers.

"We seek to resolve [Thomas'] case in a fair and reasonable manner," the RIAA released in a statement. "It is unfortunate that the defendant continues to avoid responsibility for her actions. We will continue to defend our rights."

Because music labels gain little revenue from tours, radio or merchandise, they are extremely vulnerable to file sharing, and are harmed severely from illegal downloading.

While the U.S. economy loses \$12.5 billion in revenue, more than 71,000 jobs and \$2 billion in U.S. workers' wages are lost due to the global theft of music. The music industry loses approximately \$300 million to street piracy alone.

> See **RIAA**, Page 4



Justin Knight - Staff Photographer

## Diddy Returns to the Yard

Diddy (right) walks with Marc Barnes (left) through the Yard of his alma mater after Howard's Homecoming football game this past Saturday at Greene Stadium. Diddy's star-studded entourage included Sizzla, Cassie, as well as other up and coming artists. He made his return to the Washington, D.C. area for a weekend of fun-filled extravaganzas, with parties on Friday and Saturday night at Love nightclub.



Klimery Williams - Staff Photographer

Tank thrilled the crowd with hits like "Maybe I Deserve" and "Please Don't Go."

## Artists Captivate Crowd at R&B Concert

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER  
Staff Writer

Smooth sultry melodies and infectious beats rang through a crowded Cramton Auditorium as audience members sang and danced along with artists Chrissette Michele and Tank at the Homecoming R&B Concert on Friday.

After standing in a long line in the rain, students and visitors entered the auditorium 30 minutes after the 7 p.m. show time. The opening act was new R&B performer Nazarine, otherwise known as Naz. The 24-year-old female R&B singer co-wrote Tank's song "I Hate You."

Technical difficulties made for a rocky opening. Naz stood on stage in silence waiting for the correct track to be played as crowd members sang and clapped "No Music."

"I think the crowd responded well based on the situation," said Naz, who is a Wash-

ington, D.C. native. "You have to deal with situations as they come, and because of what happened, I was able to interact with the crowd."

Naz said Friday's concert was her first performance ever, and that she was excited to have had it in her hometown.

After the opening act, audience members warmly welcomed Chrissette Michele, cheering and rising to their feet. The crowd sang along with Chrissette Michele, who began with her upbeat song "Let's Rock."

"I'm in a room full of really smart people," the 24-year-old said. "You all represent me, your families and yourself. Congratulations for your success so far."

She sang songs from her debut album, "I Am" with the crowd energetically cheering and singing all the words.

Chrissette Michele has appeared on popular singles like Jay-Z's "Lost One" off his 2006

"Kingdom Come" album and on Nas' album "Hip Hop is Dead" in the song "Can't Forget About You."

This newly celebrated artist is making great strides of her on with popular songs like "If I Had My Way" and "Best of Me" off her album. Her jazzy smooth style is reminiscent of Billie Holiday, who is one of her inspirations in addition to her family.

"My album is three years in the making, and I worked with artists like Babyface, John Legend, Will.I.Am, and I wrote all of my music," Chrissette Michele said. "When people know all the words to your song, it's very fulfilling."

Chrissette Michele said she got early practice singing at church and now gets most of her concepts from asking people questions in the studio or from working with others.

She said she is no stranger to a busy schedule.

"My schedule is absolutely insane," she said, "But my life is always busy. When I was younger, I was involved in everything from Key Club to the president of the gospel choir."

After Chrissette Michele's performance, students went wild when Tank came onto the stage. A roaring crowd of students sang and danced as Tank sang songs from his third solo album "Sex, Love & Pain" as well as songs from previous albums.

The crowd moved to the beat of the music and responded with cheers and shrieks to Tank's singing "My Body." The energy never faded as audience members flashed cameras to capture the moment.

Tank showed his vocal rang with songs like "Maybe I Deserve" and was joined by backup singers and a guitarist.

Audience members reacted with excitement as Tank

> See **CONCERT**, Page 4

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# Greeks ‘Stomp’ out D.C. Armory

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER  
Staff Writer

Homecoming week ended with a bang Saturday at the D.C. Armory where the annual step show took place.

Eight of the Divine Nine Greek organizations battled it out to be crowned the step fraternity and sorority champions of 2007-08 school year. In the end, the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. were crowned the winners.

“I haven’t been to the step show since my freshman year and it’s my senior year so I decided to come this year,” said Corinne Collette, senior international business major. “I think that over the four years that I’ve been at Howard so far I’ve come to learn more about the Greek organizations and I have a better appreciation for them.”

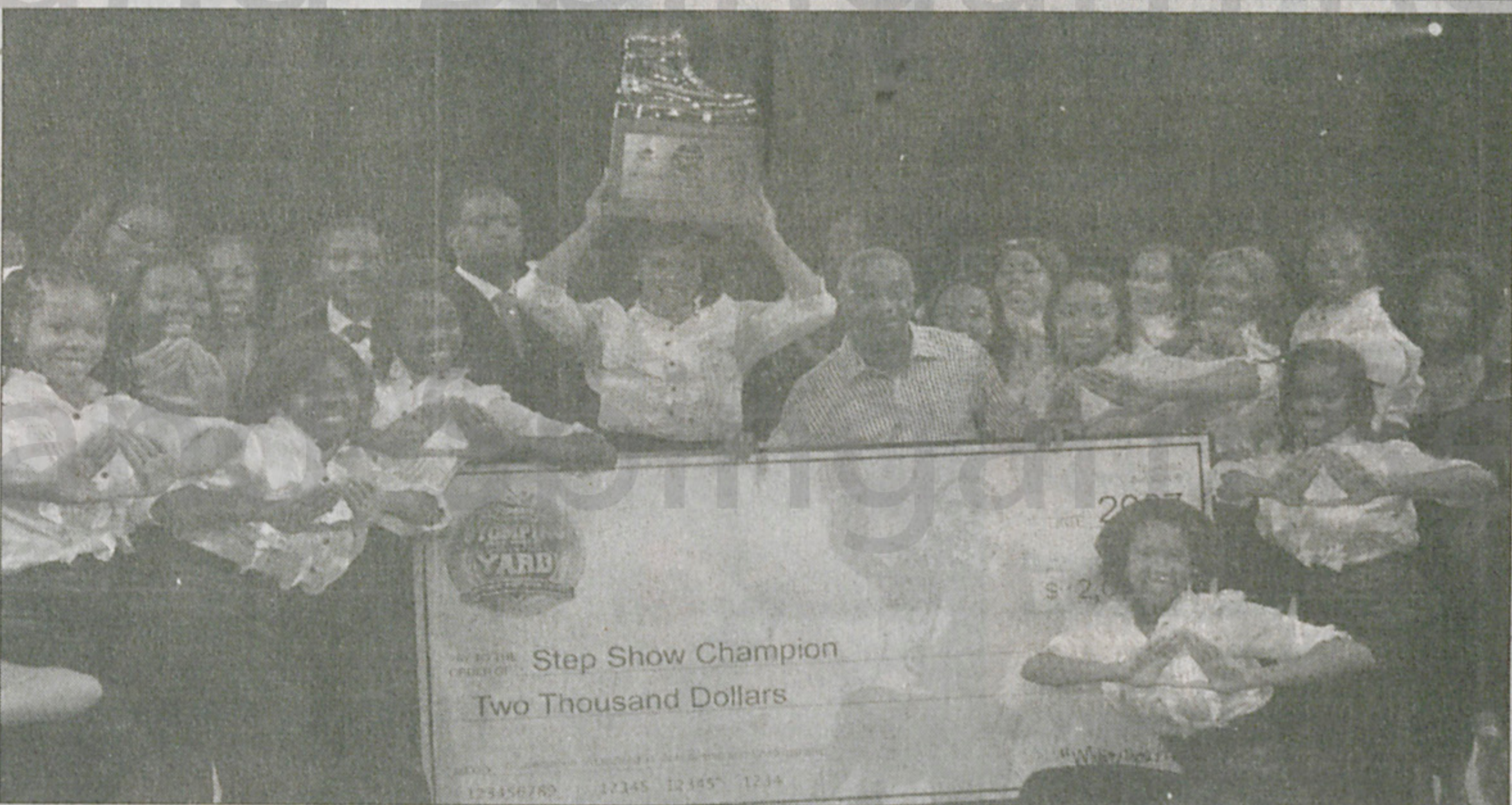
The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha and sisters of Delta Sigma Theta won the crowd over with their precision, energy and creativity in their performance.

At points in their performances the audience was on their feet for the two winning organizations.

“The step show was very entertaining and it lived up to expectations,” said Alexandria Hines, sophomore radio broadcasting major. Hines’ sister Taylor agreed that the different organizations gave the crowd their monies worth. “The show was pretty good,” Taylor said. “The Deltas were on point.”

The show was opened up by the Drew Hall Step Team, last years ResFest winners. They also showed their ability to be creative and precise at the same time.

The host of the show was entertainer, Fonsworth Bentley.



The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. stepped their way to victory at this year’s Homecoming Step Show Saturday. Each organization was awarded a \$2,000 prize.

Bentley also kept the crowd entertained between performances. During one of the breaks Bentley danced to “Motown Philly” by Boyz II Men which kept the crowd from becoming restless.

The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma, who gave a tribute to their brother who recently passed

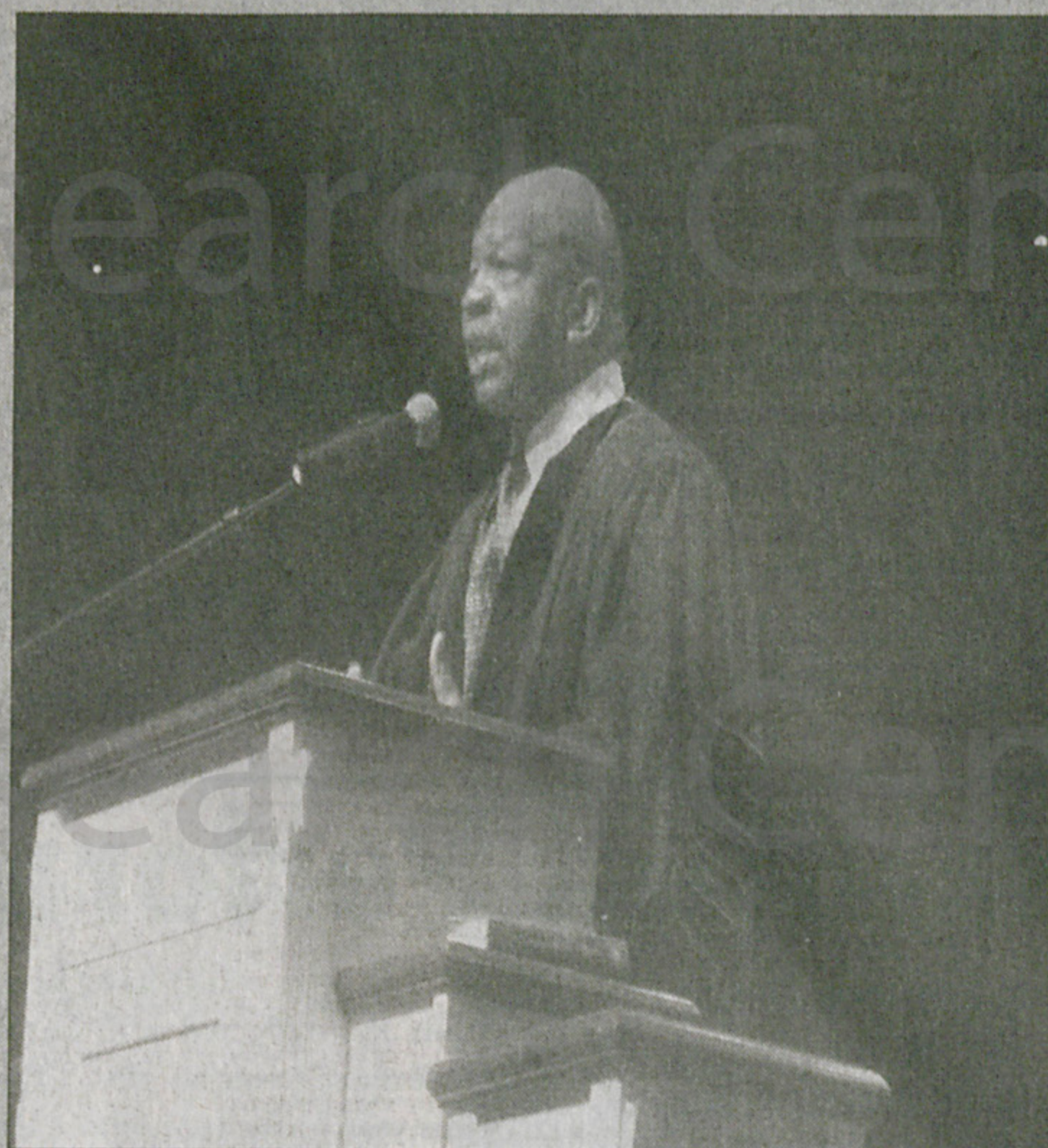
Mikel Husband, came in second place for the fraternities along with the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha who came in second for the sororities.

I’m an international student from the Caribbean, so it was a bit of a learning curve for me,” Collette said. “At this point I

feel like having been at this school and seeing things like “Stomp the Yard” I’m really getting a better feel for and the understanding of the importance of Greek organizations, such as the legacy and the heritage. I really wanted to come this year and I’m glad I came. It was a great show.”

Photo Courtesy of Lawrence Ball

## Chapel Recap



Samara Pearson - Staff Photographer

Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., spoke Sunday on how to move from the invisible to the visible and to become invincible.

BY JESSICA PERRILLIAT  
Contributing Writer

Howard University’s Homecoming has been known to be the hypest of all HBCUs. But with all of these big events going on people do not really recognize Chapel on Sunday morning as a part of Homecoming weekend.

The Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel held a powerful worship service Sunday.

The liturgical dancers, call to worship, and the Howard Gospel Choir set the tone for the strong, informational, and spiritual message that was to come.

The speaker, Elijah E. Cummings, is a part of the U.S. House of Representatives: 7th Congressional District, Maryland. He made it a point to let everyone know that he is not a preacher, but that did not show when he spoke the word of God.

Cummings’ speech covered three points: appreciate the moments when you are invisible, making visions invincible, and moving from the invisible, to the visible and becoming invincible.

“They used to feel invisible. Now they know they’re invincible,” said Kanye West in “Champion” the second track on his latest album “Graduation.”

Those words tied the audience into Cummings’ message from the very beginning.

Sophomore public relations major Eden Godbee was touched by Cummings’ inspiring words. She realized how much people underestimate themselves because they’re with the wrong crowds.

“The PPP’s are the pity party professionals always blaming everything on someone else instead of themselves and miss out on their blessings. Life is short. Why would you want to waste your time being around someone who only wants to burst your dreams,” Cummings said.

Students at Howard are all supposed to be the leaders of the community, but many get caught up in what their friends or peers think.

The speech was full of inspirational information such as, God places the right people in others lives to use them as a stepping stone to get someone on the right track.

Cummings said that participatory victimization happens so often because people put themselves in bad predicaments and then complain about where they are.

“Bad things are only temporary. You remain invisible when you get caught up with the pain and suffering of where you are invisibly,” said Cummings.

Veda Patterson, an alumni of Howard University, goes to Chapel almost every Sunday.

“It was something the youth needed to hear,” she said. “So many students let things get to them and never get anywhere beyond where their minds are limited to because they feel like no one can see them.”

Patterson believes that youth today is influenced so much by where they are and who they’re with that it becomes hard to distinguish their own thoughts and dreams.

“Sometimes you gotta leave where you are and the people you are around to become visible. You can rise and be visible,” Cummings said.

Cummings gave the example of Barack Obama as someone who has gone from invisible to invincible.

Cummings said that a black man taking a competitive stand in a presidential campaign isn’t an every day thing.

He made himself visible for all to see and now he is one of many leaders.

Leaders are never invisible.

## High School Bands High Step in Parade



Justin Knight - Staff Photographer

Dunbar High School Marching Band marched down Georgia Avenue as they participated in the band competition for the “It’s a Hollywood Howard Homecoming Parade,” on Saturday. In addition to high school bands, the parade featured celebrities Bow Wow, Omarion, Tyson Beckford and Chaka Khan.

## Campus Briefs

### Iona University

According to a report by Fox News nine students and one coach have been infected with staph at Iona University in Westchester County, N.Y.

Iona spokeswoman Cecilia Donohoe said that all the cases had been caught early and were mild.

The county’s Health Commissioner Joshua Lipsman confirmed in an interview that the Iona cases were MRSA, which does not respond to penicillin and related antibiotics but can be treated with other drugs. Lipsman said the cases at Iona began a month ago and the most recent one was reported a week ago.

### Georgetown University

According to the *Washington Blade* gay rights issues are the focus of four Georgetown University professors who joined student protests and were prohibited from presenting the university president, John DeGoia, with a gay rights petition.

Students failed to deliver the petition on Oct. 11 which is marked National Coming Out Day.

Tensions increased across the university campus since early September following a 19-year-old student being arrested for assaulting another student in what was described as an anti-gay hate crime by local police authorities.

### Yale University

According to Fox News, in his new autobiography “My Grandfather’s Son: A Memoir,” Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas makes a mockery of his Yale law degree claiming that the university’s 1970’s affirmative action policies prevented him from getting a job after graduation.

In his book Thomas writes, “I learned the hard way that a law degree from Yale meant one thing for white graduates and another for blacks, no matter how much any one denied it.”

Thomas says he stores his Yale Law degree in his basement with a 15-cent sticker from a cigar package on the frame.

### Spelman College

According to Investment, News Lehman Brothers, a New York-based investment bank, will develop the Lehman Brothers Center for Global Finance and Economic Development at Spelman College, a historically black women’s university in Atlanta.

As part of that project, Lehman Brothers contributed money to develop a new interdisciplinary curriculum and hire finance and economics professors.


The donation will also establish the Lehman Brothers Scholars Program and offer scholarships.

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## Yardfest Reactions

Continued from FRONT, YARDFEST

they were still able to enjoy the Black Market Place, which featured everything from much-needed umbrellas and free Starbucks samplers to old authentic magazine covers.

"I bought a cover to a 1954 cover of *Life* magazine with Dorothy Dandridge on it and a 1964 cover of Malcolm X on *The Post*," sophomore political science major Jonathon Peterson said. "I don't know where else I would be able to get this."

Lynn Ware is the owner of the BlackMark, a company that buys old magazine covers with a rich history and heritage. Ware has been

coming to Howard's Homecoming for four years. "I primarily come because of the intellect of the students and their appreciation for history," Ware said.

Ware said he also comes because business is always good during Howard's Homecoming.

Howard alumna Patricia James has been coming to Howard Homecoming since she graduated in 1990 and enjoys seeing Howard students together having fun.

"My friends and I come to Homecoming because there really is no place like Howard," James said. "The Yard makes us feel young again. This is where some of our most missed memories took place."

## Tank and Others Please Concert Goers

Continued from FRONT, CONCERT

sang his popular song "Slowly." Some flew from their seats to the stage to catch last glimpses of Tank when he closed with the song "Please Don't Go."

The Washington, D.C. native, who has performed at Howard before but not as the headliner, described the energy from the audience as the "ultimate welcome home."

"In the beginning, the D.C. community is hard on you, and it wants to be represented well," Tank said. "As a singer, writer, producer I've

been received well."

Tank said the themes behind his music can be personal but are sometimes things that he hasn't yet gone through.

"If I haven't gone through it yet, I will go through it eventually, so it's probably something the public will be able to relate to," he said.

Tank left many students and visitors pleased with the concert.

"There were some good artists here, but Tank was my favorite artist tonight," said Britney Smith, a freshman political science major. "He did songs from the 90s to now and

was consistent. I feel like I got my money's worth."

Smith said she was disappointed when she did not see R&B artist Trey Songz, who she said was rumored to be in the show.

"The show was amazing," said Ashley Norred, a freshman at George Washington University. "Tank was my favorite, but I liked Chrissette Michele too, and I'd only heard one of her songs before."

Norred said she paid \$50 for her concert ticket and regretted spending that amount of money after seeing tickets sold two for \$10 outside the au-

ditorium.

"The concert was really good," said Keila Kirkpatrick, a University of Central Florida student. "Tank was my favorite and besides waiting in the rain, I still enjoyed myself. The audience was hype, especially the women. They really enjoyed it."

Charity Buckner, a senior theater arts major, said, "I've been to four R&B concerts since I've been here and this was my favorite experience. I love soul music and always come to support artists. Tank was better than I expected."

## RIAA Cracks Down on Illegal Downloading, High Fines for Violations

Continued from FRONT, RIAA

"This theft triggers a harmful domino effect throughout the music community — thousands of regular, working class musicians and others out of work, record stores shuttered, new bands never signed," said Steven Marks, the executive vice president and general counsel of RIAA. "When

faced with this reality, we have no choice but to hold those individuals responsible for ignoring the law and all the great new legal ways to get affordable, high-quality music."

Though legitimate music services hold licensing agreements with individual record companies, their often high prices for songs deter listeners from downloading music legally.

However, fines for violat-

ing these copyright laws can be as high as \$250,000 with punishment of up to five years in prison for a first offense. Record companies can charge up to \$150,000 per song that is illegally downloaded or distributed.

Regardless of what the public may think, the RIAA continues to do whatever it can to send a strong message to music listeners and prevent further forms of illegal downloading.

Their next target may involve stores that play music in front of customers, since it amounts to "public performances" and requires some sort of royalties. Though radio stations pay royalties and are ad-based, requiring listeners to function properly, the RIAA could possibly take steps to regulate music played in public places.

"Suing stores for playing music is like suing people for

breathing," Neal said. "It's pointless."

Violating these laws can be as little as sending an instant message with copyrighted music, copying CDs to share with others or joining a file-sharing network. Though individuals may pay a fee to join a file-sharing network, assuming they can receive unlimited amounts of free copyrighted music, they can still be fined if those sites are not legitimate.

When those fees do not reach record companies in any way, users of the file-sharing networks are sought after.

"Maybe [record companies] should produce better quality music that's worth buying," Antwon Allen, a freshman civil engineering major, said. "No one wants to actually buy a bad song or CD. That's why [the public] continues to download music."

**Where have  
all my  
sisters  
and  
brothers  
gone?**



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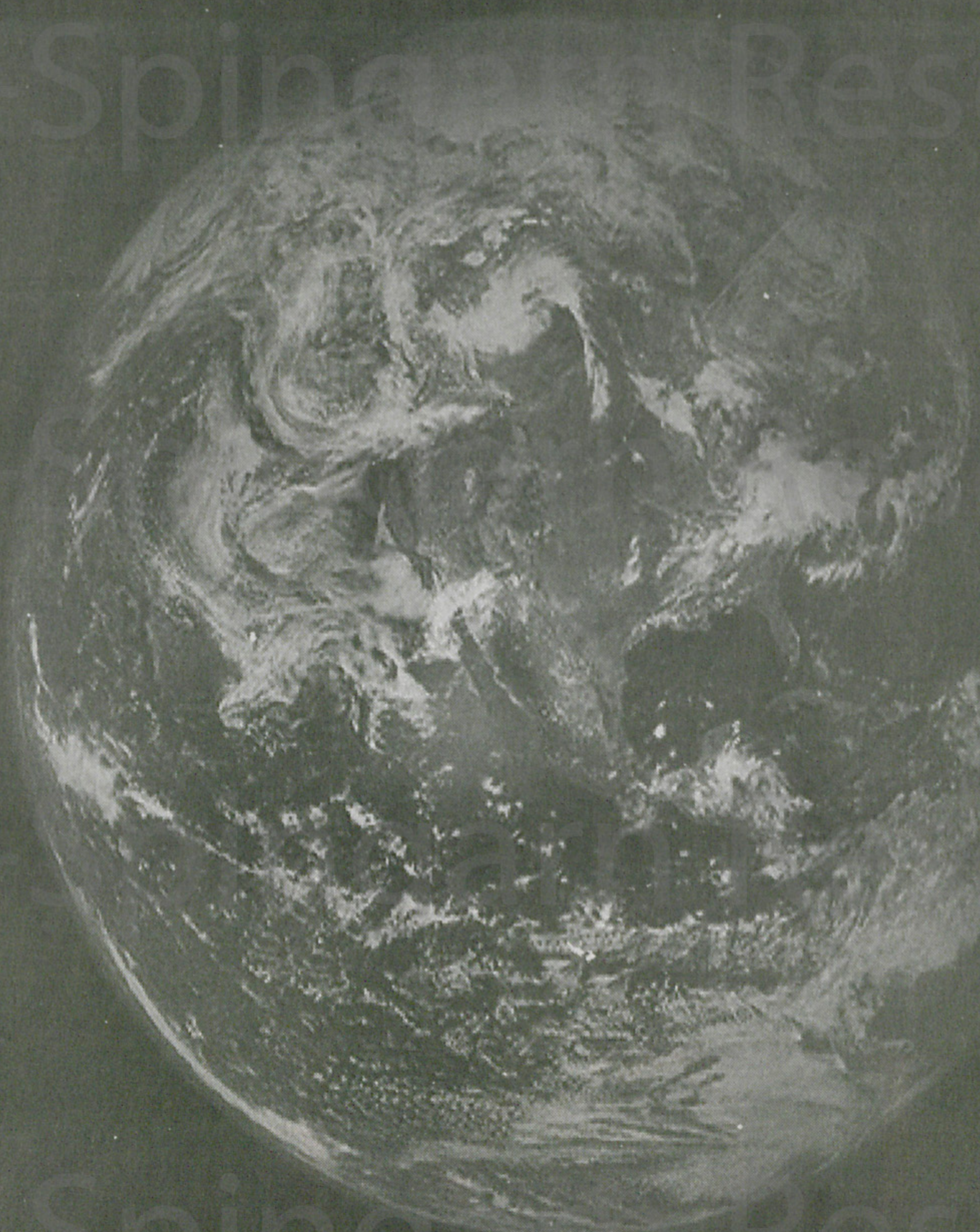
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## Top Yahoo Official Accused of Lying to Congress

BY FRANK DAVIES  
San Jose Mercury News (MCT)

WASHINGTON — A top Yahoo official “provided false information” to Congress in 2006 about the company’s involvement in the arrest of a prominent dissident in China, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Lantos said last Tuesday.

Lantos also scheduled a hearing next month “to hold the company to account.”

Yahoo quickly rejected the accusation.

In a statement, the company said “the committee’s decision to single out Yahoo and accuse the company of making misstatements is grossly unfair and mischaracterizes the nature and intent of our past testimony.”

A two-month staff inquiry by the committee, Lantos said, found that Michael Callahan, senior vice president and general counsel, was wrong when he testified that Yahoo had “no information about the nature” of a Chinese investigation when it turned over data to authorities about a Yahoo e-mail account.

The information Yahoo gave the government — including an IP address, log-on history and contents of e-mails — helped the Chinese track down and arrest Shi Tao, a dissident who used a pseudonym to post information about a government crackdown on Chinese media. Shi posted the information on an overseas Web site, Democracy Forum.

At the time Callahan testified about the case in February 2006, Chinese police had

written Yahoo that they sought evidence about Shi in a case in which he was suspected of “illegally providing state secrets to foreign entities,” according to documents released in July by the Dui Hua Foundation, a San Francisco-based human rights group.

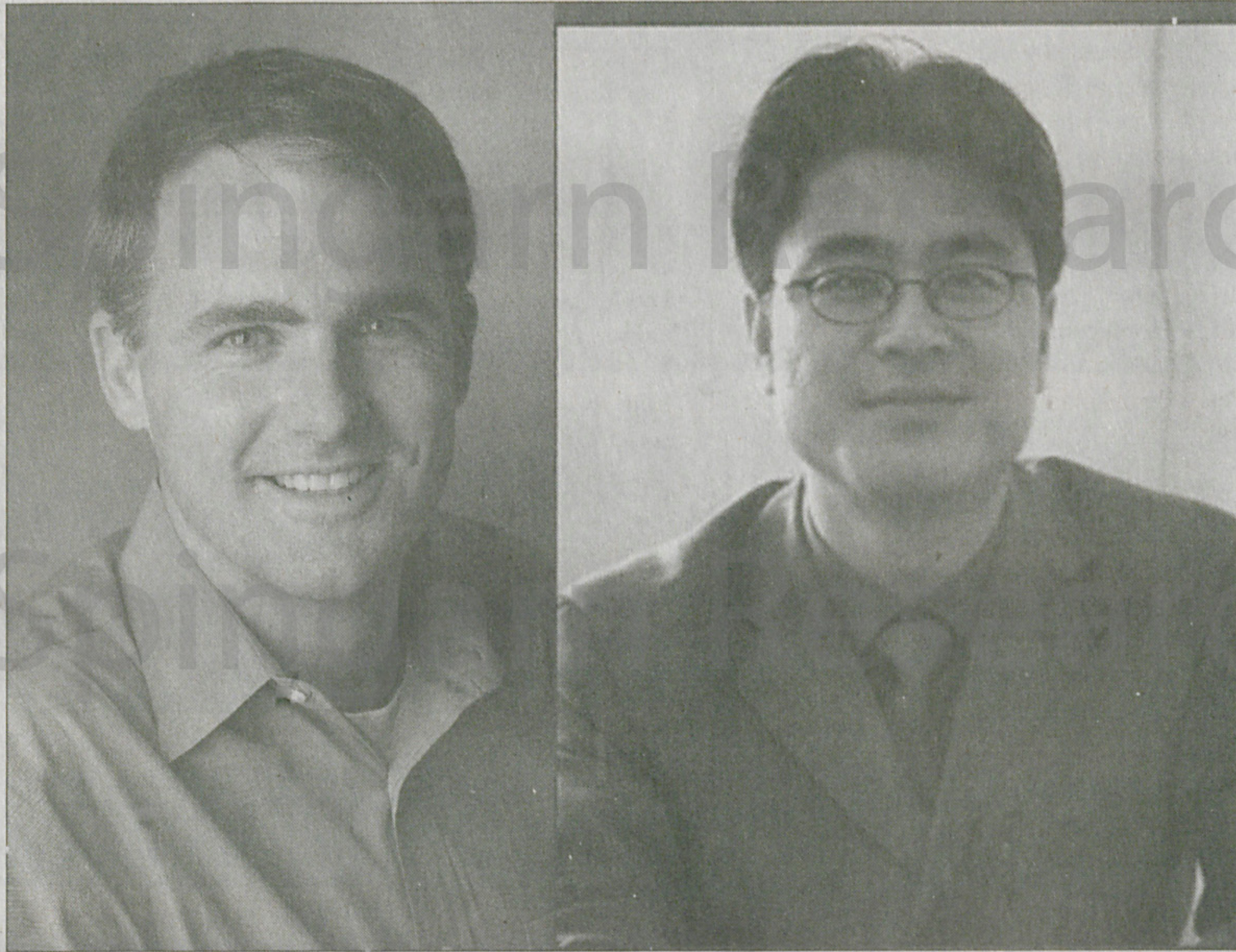
Lantos, a California Democrat, asked Callahan and Yahoo chief executive officer Jerry Yang to attend a hearing Nov. 6 on the case and explain why the company gave “false information.”

“We want to clarify how that happened and to hold the company to account for its actions both before and after its testimony proved untrue,” Lantos said in a statement. “And we want to examine what steps the company has taken since then to protect the privacy rights of its users.”

Yahoo officials said that Callahan did not try to mislead the committee, and that he did not know that a Chinese lawyer working for a Yahoo subsidiary had been notified of the police’s “state secrets” complaint against Shi.

“This issue revolves around a genuine disagreement with the committee over the information provided,” Tracy Schmalzer, Yahoo’s spokeswoman in Washington, said. “We had hoped that we could work with the committee to have an open and constructive dialogue about the complicated nature of doing business in China.”

Yahoo and other Internet companies have said that when police in China or other countries seek information on us-



Photos: Courtesy of yahoo.client.shareholder.com (left) and www.hrichina.org (right)  
Michael Callahan (left) is accused of providing Congress with false information about Yahoo’s knowledge of an investigation that led to the arrest of Shi Tao (right) after giving the Chinese government data from his e-mail account.

ers, it’s difficult to distinguish between legitimate law enforcement requests and cases of political persecution.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., who has sponsored bills to regulate U.S. business practices in foreign countries, said in a statement that “U.S. companies must hold the line and not work hand in glove with the secret police.”

Shi is now serving a 10-year prison sentence for “divulging state secrets abroad,” which human rights groups

say means he was criticizing the government. Shi has appealed the verdict and is also seeking damages in a U.S. court against Yahoo and its Hong Kong-based subsidiary.

John Palfrey, who closely monitors Internet companies’ business practices as executive director of the Berkman Center for the Internet and Society at Harvard University, said he was “deeply concerned by the allegations against Yahoo” and hoped

that a hearing would clarify what the company knew.

The February 2006 hearing before Lantos’ committee was a landmark event. For the first time, tech giants Yahoo, Google, Microsoft and Cisco were severely criticized in Congress for their business practices overseas, especially in China.

Executives for the companies defended their actions as the necessary price of entering the world’s largest market, while

several lawmakers, including Lantos, castigated them as collaborators with a repressive regime.

At the hearing, Callahan said that in the Shi case, Yahoo did not know who the e-mail address belonged to or why the Chinese police were seeking the information when it complied with the government order.

“I don’t think it would be appropriate for me to sit in my office in California and order a Chinese citizen in our Beijing operation not to follow a lawful command,” Callahan said last year. “We are very distressed about the consequences of complying with Chinese law.”

Since that hearing, Yahoo, Google and other tech companies, along with human rights groups and investment funds, have been negotiating over a set of best practices that would guide companies in protecting user privacy while complying with government regulations.

“When law enforcement in another country asks for information on a user, it’s often hard to get a clear picture of why they are asking,” said Palfrey, who is involved in the negotiations. “At least in the United States you know there will be due process.”

Google has also been criticized for acquiescing to censorship in its search engine in China. But Google decided not to offer its e-mail service, g-mail, in China, to avoid disputes over providing user data to a government.

“That probably saved Google a world of hurt,” Palfrey said.



Best Buy’s profits may take a hit this year as the result of a lawsuit involving wire fraud.

## Microsoft, Best Buy Face Racketeering Lawsuit

BY LINSEY ISAACS  
Staff Writer

Microsoft made headlines as the software company found itself in the midst of a civil case along with marketing partner Best Buy. Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the companies’ appeal to have a fraud lawsuit thrown out.

The two companies created a joint venture in April 2000 when Microsoft invested \$200 million in Best Buy. The companies advertise each others’ services online and in stores.

The companies are now the focus of a Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO) violation. Civil RICO is one of the most frequent, damaging devices used against businesses, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Under the law, criminal acts performed by a criminal organization are penalized severely, amounting to the loss of all assets gained from the crimes as well as the possibility of 20 years in prison and \$25,000 worth of fines per racketeering count. Though RICO was initially created to stop organized crime, primarily with the Mob, there has been an increase in its use against major businesses.

The case stemmed from a lawsuit filed by James Odom in 2003. Odom purchased a laptop from Best Buy and was offered software that provided him a six month free trial to Microsoft’s MSN, an Internet service provider. Odom’s credit card information from the purchase was allegedly sent to Microsoft, and after the six month free trial ended, charges showed up on Odom’s card.

Odom, along with many other customers, have filed a civil class action suit, claiming tens of millions of dollars in damages. If the case goes in their favor, due to guidelines of RICO, the number could triple, amounting to a repayment that would top \$100 million.

“That’s completely unethical,”

said Karen Roberts, a first year MBA accounting major.

Another consumer from Los Angeles, Samuel Kim, filed a complaint about his purchase at Best Buy, as well. As part of a promotion, Kim was given a free trial compact disc for MSN access. When the CD was scanned at the checkout for inventory purposes, its information triggered MSN to create an account for Kim, creating a subscription which surpassed the six month trial period.

“I wouldn’t put it past them,” said first year MBA accounting and finance major Bernard Mereigh. “Microsoft is not credible with some of their practices against other businesses.”

Microsoft and Best Buy argue that their joint venture, which they refer to as a “marketing agreement,” does not constitute as an enterprise, which would be the only way they could be penalized under RICO.

However, their attempt to overturn the case was dismissed. Supreme Court justices ruled that the joint venture is, in fact, an enterprise, and the companies engaged in wire fraud when they transferred Odom’s and Kim’s information.

Despite the ongoing controversy, Microsoft’s shares have yet to be negatively affected. Its stocks dropped 0.4 percent, amounting to 11 cents. Analysts expect the company to recover well from the lawsuit.

Analyst Charles Di Bona of Sanford C. Bernstein told Forbes, “[Microsoft tends] to fight class action suits instead of settling, and historically have done well.”

Best Buy’s shares slipped 1.5 percent, amounting to 76 cents. After opening 15 new stores across the country, Best Buy may lose profits due to the suit.

“I will continue to shop there, but I would think twice about what I purchase and how I purchase it,” said Steven Neepe, a first year public policy major in graduate school.



BY LINSEY ISAACS  
Staff Writer

The effort to promote energy efficiency is high, with urban cities across the country attempting to go green through their taxi services.

Boston, San Francisco and New York started the initiative to turn public transportation green, while in Arlington, Va., Fresh AIRE (Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions) recently surfaced along with EnviroCab, adding more than 85 new hybrid vehicles to their taxi services. The District of Columbia has yet to employ energy efficient tactics in their public transportation.

Senior history major H. Anthony Moore has successfully provided a median between global consciousness and customer service. As CEO and co-founder of Greenwood, a private car hire service, Moore aims to turn major businesses green, and additionally provide a service to the community both physically and environmentally.

“The world is car-centric now,” Moore said. “The emission of carbon dioxide in urban cities is high, and nothing is being done in D.C.”

Greenwood will provide a taxi service to and from airports, using hybrid vehicles. Its name has a double meaning, representing the eco-friendly company’s attempt to go green in

all aspects of its services, as well as paying homage to the Greenwood community in Tulsa, Ok., that burned down in 1921. The area, which was known as the Black Wall Street, was home to several prominent black businessmen. Its significance drove Moore to succeed in his new business after meeting survivors from the area.

The idea occurred to Moore three weeks ago when the Houston native made a drastic change in all aspects of his life. With the passing of his father and after giving a sermon, the former party promoter transformed his trade to one that would aid the community.

Moore’s original shuttle service during his freshman year sparked the idea to create a stronger and friendlier service, and a door-to-door security job over the summer provided him with the tools to enhance this new business.

Currently, a minimum of 20 vehicles are needed for taxi companies to exist in the District. After talking with the D.C. taxi commission, as well as private investors and the mayor, Moore has launched his company unofficially with his first hybrid vehicle, the Toyota Prius.

“I want to start small with five vehicles so we can prove to the city that this is a good business,” he said.

By using a brokering system,



Darius Lyles - Staff Photographer  
H. Anthony Moore will offer students and faculty an environmentally friendly option for getting around town as his new company will use only hybrid vehicles.

## Car Service Goes Green on Campus

Moore plans to hire more drivers in the near future. Private investors are currently funding the business, and the School of Business’ Small Business Association has looked over his business plan to determine if it is a Limited Liability Company (LLC) or an incorporated business. The business plan will similarly be sent to Google’s MKlean group.

For Moore, the hardest part of transitioning from his well-known status as party promoter to owning a business included a change of pace and the major increase in customers.

“Ultimately, it’s harder promoting this new business,” Moore said. “People are keener to fun [parties] than they are to making choices that help the community. But once they get choices, people take opportunities.”

His party promoting skills left Moore with tools to promote Greenwood without using paper. With word of mouth, marketing on Facebook, Greenwood’s Web site and hard promoting around campus, Moore hopes to successfully endorse Greenwood without compromising its premise. He only accepts credit cards due to the attempt to go green, as well. Howard provides great clientele for this new business, while students around campus respect his efforts to turn the city green.

“The idea of turning companies green is great,” said freshman physician assistant major Christina Passley. “It’s innovative and effective in the long run. I hope [Moore] stays committed to this job.”

Presently, Moore serves only Howard students and faculty, charging \$10 for city travel, \$12 to Reagan National Airport and \$25 to both the Baltimore Washington International and Dulles International airports.

Nonetheless, efforts to expand to the community are vital for Moore as he plans to go nationally with his business in three to five years and globally in 10 years or less.

As of today, his company became an LLC, requiring intense work to maintain this new venture. With a desire for financial freedom and the ability to financially help others, Moore refuses to let anything stop his plans.

“The hard work comes after this date,” Moore said. “[And] failure is not an option. There is no plan B.”





No one looks back fondly  
on the time they spent in a parking garage.



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## Lupe Fiasco, Making His Own 'Cool'

BY DANIELLE KWATENG  
Life & Style Editor

Waking up from his casket, he bursts through the dirt exposing sunshine. The glare from his gold chains blind his sight for a moment. He composes himself, dusts off his shoulders and looks around at the graveyard. Then he walks towards the old block reminiscing on all he's lost. Family, friends and life. The same boys are out on the corner packing the guns that killed him. Then, now and forever chasing "the cool."

This fictional story is a synopsis from Chicago artist, Lupe Fiasco's, debut album "Food and Liquor." It's from the track, appropriately named "The Cool," which tells the dark tale of a drug dealer trying to put the pieces of his life together after being shot to death.

"My mind is more cinematic like 'Kick Push.' I try to create these worlds and try to tell stories in these worlds," Fiasco told *The Hilltop* when he came to WHBC last Friday. "And then on certain records it's more about having fun with words. Going deep. Getting all complex."

He came by to talk about his upcoming sophomore album, which is based as a continuation of this record entitled, "The Cool" due Dec. 18.

"It's real home grown, but it's ridiculous. 'The Cool' is more dark [than 'Food and Liquor']. It's very dark," Fiasco said. "This album is based around three characters I came up with. One of them is from the first album with the song with Kanye called 'The Cool.' We took that and expanded that over five records, so it's crazy."

Love or hate him, Fiasco has been always regarded by critics as a conscious urban rapper because of his unique delivery and appeal.

His first major single



Photo courtesy of Danielle Kwateng

Lupe Fiasco stopped by WHBC last Friday to discuss his new album due in stores Dec. 18 entitled, "The Cool."

"Kick Push" is thought to have been one of the catalysts behind the popularity of urban skate culture.

But not until finishing his last album did his lyrics get criticized as being too deep. Fiasco addresses this issue on his current single entitled, "Dumb it Down."

"I don't think the people who listen to my music or their reaction to my music is the cross section of how intelligent they are. It's just that the response ['Dumb it Down']," Fiasco said. "They're not really digging you in the streets...they don't really understand." But I've had some of the most, you wouldn't believe, people come up to me like, 'Yo, man the such and such song was crazy' and they spit it back to you verbatim. And I'm like, 'Wow.' So I think on the first album I was kinda lax, on a few songs. And so now on this one I'm like, 'Aight, forget it.'"

This anticipated album is simplistically styled to give

insight into the mind of Fiasco with little interruption. The only collaborations are with Snoop Dogg, an English techno band named "Uncle" and Chicago newcomer Matthew Santos.

Fiasco, along with his music partner Chili, executive produced this album. Fiasco is excited about what he has in store for fans and has advice for listeners to better understand the album-to-album connection.

"Get 'Food and Liquor.' Listen to it first and then listen to 'The Cool.' All the pieces and parts come together. The inspiration is that people chase 'the cool.' Cornell West had lecture in Chicago and he said, 'If you really want to affect social change in the world, you got to make it hip to be square. Make the things that are cool, uncool. This album was an attempt to do that. In a dark, graphic, very kind of spooky little way. The point gets across. All those pieces go together,'" he said.

Contrary to his dark al-

bum, Fiasco comes across as a funny, down-to-earth guy. All the energy that could be put into his ego goes into his music, which he is extremely passionate about.

"It was rap or nothing. We was gonna rap or work at the post office," he said as he glanced at rapper and his childhood friend Bishop G.

The next album for Fiasco will be his last.

He's content that he's been here for a while, reminiscing on his first visit to Howard in 2000. He plans to sit back and run his label from then on.

"I'm good. I'm comfortable. I'm not comfortable to the point where I'm lax, I still got drive," he said. "[I'm going to] put my energy in it [his label], from everything I've learned. We're actually putting a record together on 'Soundtrakk' right now. I ain't going to turn into hooks and beats for you. Blah-ditty blah-ditty blah, now bring in the hook."

## Artists Lineup: Homecoming 2007

Talib Kweli—This headliner for Yardfest is noted as being one of the few mainstream conscious rappers. Although he first appeared on Mos Def's album in 1997, Kweli's first solo album was released in 2002. Here he performed, "Get By" his most known hit, but his latest album "Eardrum" is in stores now.



Lil Mama—This New York teen rapper performed at this year's Yardfest. You may have heard her summer teen-hit "Lip Gloss" or from her collaboration with Avril Lavigne on "Girlfriend." Her album is called "Voice of the Young People."



Janelle Monae—The Kansas rocker performed at this year's Fashion Show. She's signed to Purple Ribbon Entertainment and has worked closely with Outkast's Big Boi. Her current single is "Violet Star Happy" and her album is called "Metropolis Suite I of IV: The Chase."



Chrisette Michele—Signed to Def Jam, this jazz inspired singer hails from New York. Early in the game, she's already worked with Kanye West, Jay-Z and Nas. Her debut album, "I Am," features her single "If I Have My Way."



Playaz Circle—From the Disturbing the Peace label, these Georgia newcomers performed at Yardfest. You may have heard their single, "Duffle Bag Boy" with Lil Wayne. Their album is called "Supply & Demand."

Tank—Headliner for the R&B show, this Maryland raised artist is on his third album. Once a background singer for Ginuwine, he now has his own position in the male R&B world. Entitled "Sex, Love & Pain" his album's biggest hit is "Please Don't Go."

All photos by Kimery Williams - Staff Photographer

## Starting Strong, Finishing Strong, Making the Most of the Semester

BY SIMONE PRINGLE  
Staff Writer

As midterms are winding down, that crucial part of the year where students decide if they're going to stick it out or drop a class is quickly approaching. Students have until Nov. 16 to drop a course with a "W" on their transcripts.

But to avoid that, university advisors say preparation and finishing the semester strong academically begins with the first day.

Jacqueline Greene-Deckard, the director of Academic Services for the School of Business Office of Student Affairs, said, "Students should start the very first day of the semester, claiming they're going to be [academically] strong. Students know by now whether they will finish the semester strong or not."

School of Communications advisor Bernadette Williams agreed.

"Keep in mind you don't study for midterms the night before. You need to find the best place to study, [you need to already] know whether you study best by yourself or with others. Students should be able to prioritize their responsibilities and their studies should be their first priority," she said.

To handle midterms, freshman chemical engineering major Akindele Bassett said, "I'm a major procrastinator, so I do a lot of cramming."

Advisors differ on their opinions of cramming. Williams said, "[It's alright,] if it works. It's an individual situation. There are some people who don't have to study because they have a passion for it and it comes easy to them. People might be struggling in their elective classes, but when it comes time for the classes that pertain to their major, they did much better because they enjoy what they're discovering."

On the other hand,

Greene-Deckard said, "I will never suggest cramming. You're supposed to start off the semester with your goals in mind, the first day you step in class."

Some students agree that cramming no matter how beneficial it might seem to be, is not good. Bassett said, "Some subjects you cannot cram at all. You have to keep up and read throughout the week."

Bell agreed with Bassett. "Cramming is not good. You stress yourself a lot," she said.

Sophomore psychology major Veturah Thomas said, "I work better when I procrastinate. I think I did pretty well on midterms because I procrastinated, which is not a good idea, but that's how I study."

Students and advisors agree that each class must be approached differently. "Most students notice that a class does not fit their learning style earlier in the semester. If they don't drop it, they end up living in the pro-

fessor's office, getting extra help," Greene-Deckard said.

Williams also said, "The subject matter dictates how a subject is taught. The facility in which you're teaching also limits you."

To avoid cramming, many students benefit immensely from study groups.

Freshman pharmacy major Olivia Bell said, "Working together and thinking of ways to retain the information is better than just studying by yourself. The group kind of pushes you to studying [harder]."

Thomas prefers to study in UGL because she needs a little noise in her study environment.

"I can't study in [an atmosphere like Louis] Stokes Health Sciences Library. I also work better in groups," she said.

But Bassett disagreed.

He said, "Because I'm a very social person at times [group study] probably wouldn't be the best idea for me. I believe being

in a group with a friend is definitely a bad idea because if doing your job, they just try to mooch [off] of your work and try to get you to do theirs."

Many students, like Bell, find that it depends on the person.

"If you're about your business, then it shouldn't be a problem to study with [your friends.] If not, then yeah, you will not get anything done besides talking about what you're doing this weekend, etc.," Bell said.

Every student has different study tools that work for them. Bassett uses flashcards while Bell and Baker look to other methods.

"Since I love music, I might have a rhythm that helps me remember the work better. [Study guides] are still helpful," Bell said.

Baker said, "I tend to repeat things to myself three times before moving onto the next thing."

Thomas said that she might try another study method.

"To finish the semester, I'm going to try studying as I go along now, because I find cramming isn't always the right procedure," she said. "I might read ahead, and pay attention to what chapters I need to read in the syllabus and take notes [before class]."

Many students wonder if there is ever a bad reason to drop a class.

Greene-Deckard said, "If a student is failing the class, it's always advised to drop it. A 'W' doesn't mean anything. An 'F' does."

But Williams said that dropping a class isn't always advised.

"It depends on whether it will affect your scholarship [or] financial aid. You don't want to have a lot of W's on your transcript. You're going to have to explain to employers why you have W's on your transcript."

## Driven: Louisiana's Newest Rap Sensation, Hurricane Chris

BY JESSICA LITTLES  
Copy Editor

Among the young Louisianans to have emerged this year, none has stood out quite like Hurricane Chris.

Hurricane Chris is a Shreveport, La. native signed to J Records alongside Mario and Cassidy. He hit the Southern club circuit earlier this year, and since then he has achieved mainstream success with the hit "A Bay Bay."

The song was on the Billboard's Hot 100, and it's known for its catchy refrain and infectious beat. The hook has become a popular phrase across the country, but the song was originally a shout out to Louisiana's DJ Hollywood Bay Bay.

"Whenever we in the club we would be like, 'A Bay Bay turn it up or play my song,' so that's where the title comes from," Hurricane Chris said.

Hurricane's new album "51/50 Ratchet" drops tomorrow and features "Ay Bay Bay." His second single "Handclap" is another club song and features a dance.

"How Playaz Rock" is the newest single produced by Michael "Mr. Collipark" Crooms and talks about his relations with the opposite sex. "51/50 basically means I'm 101 percent real," Hurricane said of the album's title. "I'm going to give 101 percent all the time, no matter what I do."

Although Hurricane Chris has emerged alongside Lil' Boosie and Foxx as artists from Louisiana, he is bringing something different to the table.

The Ratchet movement is a cultural phenomenon that originated in Shreveport and it's comparable to Lil' Jon's Crunk movement.

"Ratchet is our culture," he said. "It's a part of everything

we do. How we walk, talk, sleep, eat, dress." And now it's becoming a musical genre.

Hurricane began rapping when he was eight years old and he was well-known on mixtapes by the time he was 17. He started off on Smart House, a small, Shreveport-based label before being signed to J Records earlier this year.

According to Hurricane, he writes all of his own lyrics. "I hear the beat first and I pretty much know what I'm going to put on it," he said. And although writing and recording is a great part of being a rapper, the best part for Hurricane is touring.

"You can definitely expect an exciting show, but you never know what's going to happen. We may call someone on stage. Baby Three might come out," said Jay, Hurricane's road manager.

Baby Three is the little boy in Hurricane Chris' videos and songs, and he resembles a mini-

ature Hurricane Chris. "It's busy. Just a constant grind, but every city we go to we get a lot of love," Jay said.

"My favorite song on the album is 'Mama' and it's dedicated to all the real mamas out there," Hurricane said.

The song talks about Hurricane Chris' struggle growing up and the important role that his mother played in his life.

Although Hurricane Chris is only 18 years old, he has the work ethic and maturity that will allow him to have longevity in the music industry.

"The biggest thing is that he's been real mature. He's been doing it for 10 years," Jay said. "He's been taking it in strides. He's good at it because he's been doing it for so long."

Other hot tracks on the album feature "Gettin' Money" which features Nicole Wray and "Touch Me." The album will be in stores tomorrow, Oct. 23.



www.myspace.com/hurricanechris

Often being criticized as just being "hooks and beats" Hurricane Chris appreciates his talent for making feel good club music.



# Bison Snatch Win From Aggies in Fourth Quarter

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS  
Sports Editor

The Bison flexed their strength Saturday afternoon in a whirlwind Homecoming game against North Carolina A&T, with the Howard victory resulting in a final score of 35-27. The Bison are now 3-4 for the season.

Perhaps it was the Bison "showing off" in front of the alumni and celebrity guests like Chaka Khan, Diddy and Tyson Beckford that helped fill Greene Stadium to a capacity of 7,035 for the Homecoming event.

If that was the case, the team had many of their fans fooled and on the edge of their seats for much of the game.

Howard was down in the fourth quarter by two touchdowns.

"We wanted to simplify things and not check out of plays," said Head Coach Carey Bailey. "We showed a lot of resiliency and I've never been prouder of our kids. I think today was a definition game for us."

A&T who is currently 0-8, 0-5 in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, was ready for their first victory since beating Morgan State on Oct. 5, 2005.

But the Aggies folded in the fourth quarter as the Bison mounted a furious comeback to win the game.

Senior wide receiver Jah-ran Williams caught nine passes for 142 yards and Howard scored 20 points in the final 3:52.

The Aggies' loss extended the nation's longest losing streak to a school-record 24 games. The Bison's 20 point lead remained unanswered.

"Nobody gave up and we didn't get on each other after a bad play," said junior linebacker Endor Cooper, who had six tackles, two for losses. "In the first half, lack of communication was a big problem. We just had to go out and execute."

With 10:24 left in the game, A&T was up 27-15 after a 30-yard touchdown pass from the Aggies' Herbert Miller to senior wide receiver Curtis Walls.

But Howard blocked a field goal and then got within 27-21 when Williams hauled in a 28-yard TD reception, his team-leading ninth of the season, from Brian Johnson.

"It's all about finishing," said NC A&T wide receiver Curtis Walls, who caught for passes for 65 yards and a TD. "We know what it takes to play close. We just

have to finish the game."

The Bison sent a perplexed Aggies team back to North Carolina after a blocked field goal, two late touchdowns, one set up by an on-side kick and an interception for a touchdown all in a span of 7:12.

Karlos Whittaker later ran up the middle 27 yards for his scored touchdown, breaking tackles at the 11 and 7. Dennis Wiehberg's point-after put Howard up 28-27 with 2:40 left.

Mike Caldwell and Walls had touchdown receptions for the Aggies, and Michael Ferguson ran for a TD.

"We were able to get up early, but we couldn't hold the lead," said NC A&T Head Coach Lee Fobbs. "The key to the game was the fumble on the kickoff by Howard and we couldn't get any points. I knew that we were going to need more points. I wasn't expecting the kick to be blocked."

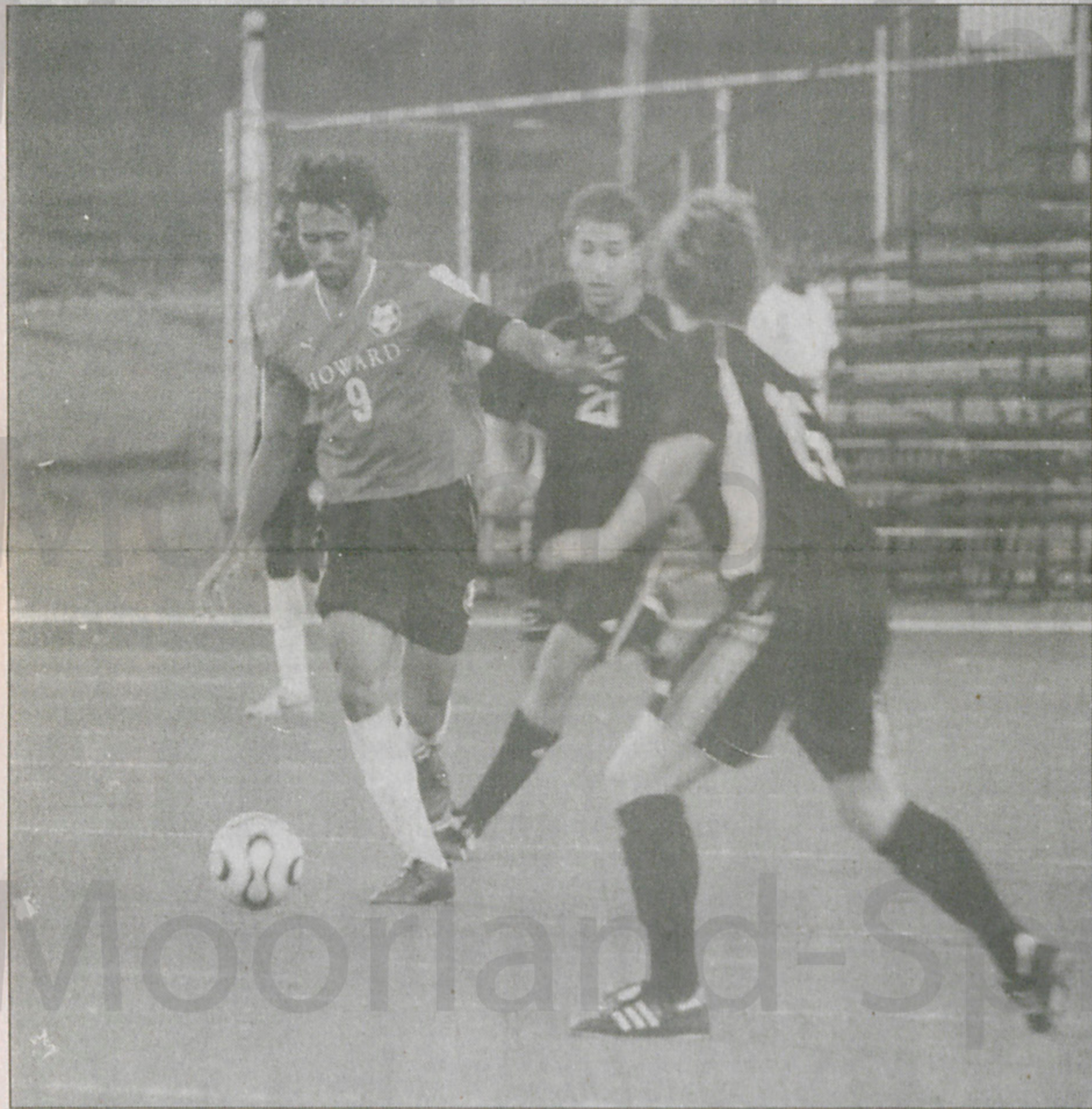
Sophomore punter for the Bison, Dennis Wiehberg, kicked a pair of field goals for the Bison. Johnson was 22-for-34 for 269 yards.

"All I was thinking about was keeping my head down," Wiehberg said. "I knew that if I kept my head down, I was going to make it."



Oscar Merrida IV - Staff Photographer  
Before a crowd of 7,035 Karlos Whittaker helped the Bison run up the middle 27 yards and scored a touchdown that assisted punter Dennis Wiehburg to put the Bison ahead of the Aggies to win Saturday's Homecoming game.

# Bison Men's Soccer Runs Circles Around Adelphi



Oscar Merrida IV - Staff Photographer  
Mike Okoh made a run for the Bison that helped them breeze past Adelphi at Greene Stadium.

BY Z'KERA SIMS  
Staff Writer

With their hopes high and adrenaline pumping the Howard Bison men's soccer team took down the Panthers of Adelphi University in an Atlantic Soccer Conference match up at Greene Stadium Sunday.

The game winning shot came when the Bison's own Lamar Hyde scored unassisted in the last five seconds of the game hurtling the Bison to a 2-1 victory making them 3-3-5 and 1-0-1 in the Atlantic Soccer Conference.

For the first period the Bison defense managed to not allow any shot attempts from the Panthers offense. While the Bison offense managed six for the first half with one resulting in a goal.

In corner kicks the Bison out shot the Panthers 1-0 for the first half and 6-3 for the second half, respectively.

The Bison fell into trouble in the first half when at the 25:00 minute mark of the game, Bison player Robert Wesley was red-carded and subsequently ejected from the game for misconduct.

From then on the Bison were disadvantaged and forced to play one

man down. They did not however let that interfere with their main objective, winning. The rest of the first half was a power struggle between the Bison's domineering offense and the Panthers indomitable defense.

"The team played excellent," said mid-fielder Joel Senior, for the Bison. "Even though we went down one player in the first half, we kept it together and executed the coaches orders."

He continued, "We have been training hard for one and a half weeks, and I am very satisfied. The hard work has paid off. We won."

The lone score for the first half came when the mid-fielder, Joel Senior scored from the left corner assisted by Lamar Hyde and Guilherme Fonseca at the 26:27 minute of regulation, marking this senior's first goal of the season.

Down one goal going into the second half the Panthers of Adelphi were more determined then ever to get back into the game and score.

Their chance came when Patrick Figueiredo of the Panthers capitalized on a chance to even the score with a penalty kick at the 60:42 mark of the game.

With the score now 1-1 the Bi-

son picked up the pace on offense. Still playing one player down the Bison did not let that stop them.

They continued with persistent pressure on defense slowly wearing down the Panther's offense.

As the last minute of regulation rolled around it seemed as though the game would result in a tie.

However, at the 89:56 mark of the game with just four seconds left on the play clock junior forward, Lamar Hyde, for the Bison scored unassisted for the win. The Bison fans erupted in applause to the dismay of the stunned Panthers.

Since new Head Coach Joseph Okoh has taken over a lot has changed for the team. These changes are evident with the outcome of this game.

"This was a very emotional game," Okoh said. "Both teams came out here looking for the result, a win. We played very well, this game was truly an indication of the character of the players. [Especially] playing one player down."

The Bison return home this Tuesday at Greene Stadium as they take on the University of Maryland Baltimore County at 7 p.m.

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

OCTOBER 22, 1923

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## SCOREBOARD

### Women's Soccer

Oct. 19 (W)		
HU	2	
SC State	0	
Oct. 21 (L)		
HU	2	
Francis Marion	14	

### Football

Oct. 20 (W)		
HU	35	
N.C. A&T	27	

### Volleyball

Oct. 21 (W)		
HU	3	
Coppin State	0	

### Men's soccer

Oct. 21 (W)		
HU	3	
Coppin State	0	





Kimery Williams - Staff Photographer

The Hilltop Staff's 2007 Homecoming Report Card

**Mr. and Ms. Howard Pageant: A-**  
(Last year's grade: B)  
The pageant met the expectations of Hilltop staffers sans thrills. It was organized, on time, and ran smoothly with no ling lines. The performances by Vision and the Bisonettes left the crowd thoroughly entertained. The winners of the competition were merited, but in the tradition of pageants this year, it has been questioned whether their winnings were influenced by a biased judging panel. For staffers, the pageant has definitely earned the title of one of the better events of this year's Homecoming.

**Coronation Ball: D-**  
Much controversy surrounded the coronation ball this year, with its disorganization in stamping the tickets and its delay in the opening of the doors. What should have started at 7 p.m. didn't begin until 8:30, and was over as soon as it started. Though last year's ball cost \$20 per ticket, the free event located in Blackburn this year was no comparison to the elegance of the yacht prior to it. Two hundred and fifty seats were available and were not completely filled, while the dance, worse than a high school dance, died about three times. JDI's entertainment group catered the event, and was very cheap with the distribution of its cuisine. Surprisingly, they ran out of food and beverages well before the dance was over.

**Gospel Concert: B+**  
(Last year's grade: C)  
The show was well organized, and the acts delivered quality performances. The steps of Alpha Nu Omega did well with their impromptu floor performance, in spite of having prepared to perform on stage. The performances were met with warm reception (kudos to the Gospel Choir who tore it up!). The concert was a good kick-off to the official 2007 Homecoming.

**Comedy Show: D+**  
This disappointing show left students with a bitter taste this year. While Steve Harvey headlined the event last year, there was no prominent headliner for this show. Though rumors spread that Katt Williams would host this event, students were left with George Wilborn, who sounded like a dirty drunk uncle that makes unnecessary jokes. The show also promoted a number of both B-list comedians and celebrities, while Robert Curry from MTV's "Making the Band 4" performed without his fellow band members,

to the crowd's dismay. To add to the disappointment, the only female comedian seemed to do nothing more than outrage the audience and send her sex back a few decades with her potty mouth concerning subjects better left unsaid. Wilborn may have been the funniest comedian there, but considering who his opponents were says little about his comedic talents overall.

**Fashion Show: C+**  
(Last year's grade: B+)  
For the staffers "The Art of War" was lost in translation. The fighting scenes and props distracted the audience and did little to support the theme (A haystack doesn't exactly recall images of the great African plains), yet the show was applauded as fashion-forward and featured clothing from local designers as well as major labels. The interludes featuring behind the scenes shoots of the models at rehearsal gave the spotlight to the models instead of the designers, making it seem as if the show was aiming to sell the models and not the clothes. The eclectic musical sound of Janelle Monae livened the show although many audience members weren't quite sure who she was, which falls in hand with Howard's theme of showcasing emerging talent. Mary J, Kanye anyone?

**R&B Concert: B**  
One of the more exciting events of Homecoming, the R&B concert provided students with an interesting selection of its performers. D.C. area native Tank headlined the concert, while up and coming Chrisette Michele participated with about four songs. The last performer left a small impression on the crowd, while barely anyone remembers his name. While many students enjoyed the event, it seemed to cater to the female crowd with Tank's heavy sex appeal and serenading methods. The R&B concert wasn't bad, but it wasn't spectacular, either.

**Yardfest: C-**  
What can be said about the most anticipated annual Homecoming event? One word, "disappointment." There was an infinitive list of performances that displeased the crowd. They ranged from one hit wonder Hurricane Chris, who just needed to stop, and local artists that made the crowd wonder why controversial music figures like Lil' Wayne were uninvented. Many artists' songs were filled with degrading lyrics, and performances with ob-scene gestures. Though students flocked to the vendors and their

overpriced, but delicious food (considered the upside to the disappointing event), the crowd was only pleased when Talib Kweli hit the stage to perform. Even that was slightly disappointing when this headliner performed an extremely short set. All in all, the performances of Yardfest mimicked the weather: dreary and depressing.

**Parade / Game: A-**  
The parade proved to be a comforting atmosphere for both students and the community, while it involved bands, clubs and other community members from all over. There was a great variety of performances and laughs from the announcer, Chaka Khan, giving the parade a relaxed feel in comparison to the animosity felt about other Homecoming events. As usual, the band gave an incredible performance both at the parade and on the field. Kudos to the football team, as well, who made a great turnaround scoring two touchdowns in the last seven minutes of the game, instilling some sense of pride back in students after some other disappointing Homecoming events.

**Step Show: A-**  
(Last years grade: B-)  
The step show was the highlight of Homecoming week. Despite the fact that there was no performer as well as no air conditioning, the shorter waiting time, audio support, innovate steps and amicable host made the show more entertaining than previous years. The intensity of the performances stirred emotions and kept the crowd at full attention. The step show seems to perform consistently in the way of audience satisfaction.

**Overall: C-**  
(Last year's grade: B-)  
The quality of Homecoming seems to be on a steady decline. We miss the days when artists like Biggie and Jeczy headline the performances and other major celebrities could be spotted around campus. Homecoming also seems to be less and less organized.

Secrecy seems to be a device to hide the fact that Homecoming isn't living up to the hype. When the headliners for the comedy show and R&B shows weren't revealed, many students were deterred from buying tickets. Poor seating arrangements also leave many ticket holders slighted and unable to enjoy performances. Nevertheless, events such as the step show continue to attract large crowds, but how long can they sustain their numbers?

Daily Sudoku

Directions:  
Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

	8				2			
	6		9	7		3		
9					6			1
			1	9	3	5		2
3		1	6	4	2			
7			3					5
		8		6	7		1	
	4						2	

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Come to our budget meeting  
MONDAY @ 7P.M.  
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**The Hilltop**  
2251 Sherman Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 806-4724 (Editorial)  
(202) 806-4749 (Business)  
[hilltopbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopbusiness@gmail.com)

Now in its 84th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

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Sunday- Call to Chapel Monday- COAS Organization Fair in Hilltop Lounge (12-3pm)  
Tuesday- State of the Black Male: Blackburn Forum (7-9pm)

Howard Deli ... sandwiches & subs "BUY BLACK" ~Specials~  
BBQ or Meatball Shortie \$5.99

The National Society of Pershing Angels sorority, Inc. presents Fall 2007 Interest Meeting. If you are interested in learning how to drill or love to drill come on Wednesday October 24, 2007 at 8pm in douglass hall.

The most noble Lords of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Beta Chapter and the Howard University Campus Pals presents.... "What's Next?" Explore your post collegiate career options with McMaster- Carr Monday October 22nd 7:00pm Blackburn Digital Auditorium Bring your Resume Visit McMaster.com/careers for more info

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Wednesday- Meet ASSC in the Punchout (12-3pm)  
Thursday- Mentor/ Mentee How to Survive Browsing Room (7-9pm)  
Friday: Student Affairs, Kicked to the Curb-Locke Hall (6-8pm)

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